

# FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***  
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

April 6, 2025



***Welcome to  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Child Development Center and Pre-School***  
Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley, D.R.S., Ph.D., Pastor

**For we are God's handiwork,  
created in Christ Jesus to do  
good works.**



**lcmc**

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

**WELCOME**

**WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US**



Monday, April 14 is the deadline for ordering Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday.

Order forms are available in the bulletin and on our website under the Announcements section.



# ALTAR *flowers*



Altar flowers are placed in loving memory of  
Gladiola Kruse by her children and grandchildren.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*Our God makes all things new. In the first reading God promises it. In the gospel Mary anticipates it, anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume in preparation for the day of his burial. In the second reading Paul recalls his transformation from the persecutor Saul into an apostle. In baptism, God's new person (you!) rises daily from the deadly mire of trespasses and sins.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the  
assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in  
steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.  
We do not show others the tender  
compassion you have shown to us.  
We do not welcome others with the  
radical hospitality you grant to all people.**



**We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.  
In + Christ your sins are forgiven.  
You have a place in God's house forever.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Song**

**“As We Gather at Your Table”**

**Hymn # 522**

**<sup>1</sup> As we gather at your table,  
as we listen to your word,  
help us know, O God, your  
presence;  
let our hearts and minds be  
stirred.**

Hymn # 522

**nourish us with sacred story  
till we claim it as our own;  
teach us through this holy  
banquet  
how to make Love's vict'ry  
known.**

Hymn # 522

**2 Turn our worship into witness  
in the sacrament of life;  
send us forth to love and serve  
you,  
bringing peace where there is  
strife.**

Hymn # 522



**give us, Christ, your great  
compassion  
to forgive as you forgave;  
may we still behold your image  
in the world you died to save.**

Hymn # 522

**Final Gracious Spirit, help us  
summon  
other guests to share that feast  
where triumphant Love will  
welcome those who had been  
last and least.**

Hymn # 522

**There no more will envy blind us  
Nor will pride our peace destroy,  
As we join with saints and  
angels  
To repeat the sounding joy.**

Hymn # 522

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **Kyrie**

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace from above, and for our salvation,  
let us pray to the Lord*

***Lord, have mercy.***

*For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being  
of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us  
pray to the lord*

***Lord, have mercy.***

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their  
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

***Lord, have mercy***



*Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord*  
***A-men.***

## **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert.

Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# **WORD**

## **FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21**

*The prophet declares that long ago God performed mighty deeds and delivered Israel from Egyptian bondage through the waters of the sea. Now, God is about to do a new thing, bringing the exiles out of Babylon and through the wilderness in a new Exodus.*

<sup>16</sup>Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,

<sup>17</sup>who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:

<sup>18</sup>Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

<sup>19</sup>I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth,  
do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the  
wilderness and rivers in the desert.

<sup>20</sup>The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the  
ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen  
people,

<sup>21</sup>the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



# PSALM: Psalm 126

*Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. (Ps. 126:5)*

<sup>1</sup> When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> **Then was our mouth filled with  
laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations,  
"The LORD has done great things for  
them."**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

<sup>4</sup> **Restore our fortunes, O LORD,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

<sup>5</sup> Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>6</sup> **Those who go out weeping, carrying  
the seed,  
will come again with joy,  
shouldering their sheaves.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14**

*Writing to Christians in Philippi, Paul admits that his heritage and reputation could give him more reason than most people to place confidence in his spiritual pedigree. But the overwhelming grace of God in Jesus calls Paul to a new set of values.*

<sup>4b</sup>If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup>circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup>as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>7</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. <sup>8</sup>More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.

<sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup>if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>12</sup>Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.



<sup>13</sup>Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, <sup>14</sup>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ***Lenten Acclamation***

***Return to the Lord, your God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger,  
and abounding in steadfast love,  
and abounding in steadfast love.***

# GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John 12:1-8

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL:** John 12:1-8

*Judas willfully misinterprets as waste Mary's extravagant act of anointing Jesus' feet with costly perfume. Jesus recognizes that her lavish gift is both an expression of love and an anticipation of his burial.*

<sup>1</sup>Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup>There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup>Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

<sup>4</sup>But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup>Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor? <sup>6</sup>(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup>You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**





# **Sermon**

Rev. Dr. George R. Qualley



## **Hymn of the Day**

**“Take My Life, That I May Be”**

**Hymn # 583**

**[Refrain]**

**Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Hymn # 583

**<sup>1</sup> Take my hands and let  
them move  
at the impulse of thy love;**

Hymn # 583

**take my feet and let them be  
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**[Refrain]**

Hymn # 583

**[Refrain]**

**Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Hymn # 583

**2 Take my silver and my  
gold,  
not a mite would I withhold;**

Hymn # 583



**take my intellect and use  
ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt  
choose.**

**[Refrain]**

**Hymn # 583**

**[Refrain]**

**Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Hymn # 583

**3 Take my voice and let me  
sing  
always, only, for my King;**

Hymn # 583

**take my lips and let them be  
filled with messages from  
thee.**

**[Refrain]**

Hymn # 583

**[Refrain]**

**Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Hymn # 583

**Final Take my will and make it  
thine;  
it shall be no longer mine;**

**Hymn # 583**

**take my heart, it is thine  
own;  
it shall be thy royal throne.**

**[Refrain]**

Hymn # 583

**[Refrain]**

**Take my life, that I may be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

Hymn # 583



With the whole church let us confess our faith.

## **CREED**

*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son,  
our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the  
Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and  
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

The church declares your praise, O God. Guide us in the example of Isaiah's imagination, Paul's transformed identity, and Mary's faith and devotion; that our lives, too, may be poured out in love as we trust in your promises. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The earth declares your praise, O God. Make a way for the planet's future in the sea and the wilderness, the mountains and plains, the tundra and wetlands. Repair habitats and sustainable ecosystems on, above, and beneath the ground. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

The nations declare your praise, O God. Where religious differences divide, bring together those who worship you in the name of Jesus Christ and those who call to you with different names. Guide interreligious dialogue, that faith may unite rather than divide communities. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The people declare your praise, O God. Restore those whose hope has been dampened through a health diagnosis, job or home loss, divorce, or death. Bring healing to those in need and we remember our friends and family members before you. May all who weep now sing songs of joy again. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**



The gifts of the Spirit declare your praise, O God.  
We thank you for artists who proclaim the gospel.  
Inspire music, poetry, and images that proclaim the  
new thing you are doing. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

We pray for all our military, especially those deployed. We keep in our prayers all the Wounded Warriors that have returned home to heal. We pray for our missionaries; for Cheryl Kruckemeyer our missionary in Tanzania, for Mark in the Home Office serving with the World Mission Prayer League, and for our sister congregation at Faith Lutheran Church in Little Falls, Minnesota. Lord of the Harvest, you declare that the harvest is plentiful and invite your people to pray earnestly for laborers in your harvest field.

Be with the faculty and staff of Harvest Workers, the LCMC online ministry training program, as they equip future leaders for mission. Today we also give you thanks for St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pflugerville, Texas and their pastor, Keith Weise. Bless their ministry both now and for generations to come. Bless and protect all our local nurses, doctors, healthcare workers and first responders, our students, teachers and school administrators. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

The communion of saints declares your praise, O God. Giving thanks for those who have died, we trust in the one who has made them his own: Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Savior. God, in your mercy,  
**receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving

*The Lord be with you*  
***And also with You***

*Lift up your hearts*

***We lift them to the Lord***

*Let us give thanks to the Lord our God*

***It is right to give our thanks  
and praise***

It is indeed right, our duty and our  
joy...

...we praise your name and join their  
unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are  
full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna  
in the highest.***



***Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.***

# **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

# **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass  
against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **COMMUNION**

*Holy Communion is offered both in the center aisle  
line and at the altar rail.*

## ***Lamb of God***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
grant us peace.***

# **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

## **SENDING**

## **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you  
peace.

**Amen.**



**Sending Song**

**“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”**

**Hymn # 551**

**<sup>1</sup> The Spirit sends us forth to serve;  
we go in Jesus' name  
to bring glad tidings to the poor,  
God's favor to proclaim.**

Hymn # 551

**2 We go to comfort those who  
mourn**

**and set the burdened free;  
where hope is dim, to share a dream  
and help the blind to see.**

Hymn # 551

**<sup>3</sup> We go to be the hands of Christ,  
to scatter joy like seed  
and, all our days, to cherish life,  
to do the loving deed.**

Hymn # 551

**Final Then let us go to serve in peace,  
the gospel to proclaim.  
God's Spirit has empowered us;  
we go in Jesus' name.**

Hymn # 551

# DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Reprinted from Words for Worship, copyright 2024 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Scripture quotations (except psalms) from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Songs Used by Permission. CCLI License #11135365